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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Sudan

SUBJECT British and Egyptian Influence
in the SudanPLACE ACQUIRED
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DATE (OF INFO.) 10 Nov 53

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1. Simultaneously with the elections in the Sudan, agreement was reached between London and Abdel Rahman el Mahdi, leader of Umma. This provides:
 - a. That Great Britain shall support the right of the Sudanese to self-determination and the subsequent election of the Mahdi as King of the Sudan.
 - b. The Mahdi will reach an agreement with the British regarding the upper course of the Nile.
 - c. The Mahdi will make a treaty with the British regarding the valuation of the Gezirah cotton plantations.
2. The Egyptian Revolutionary Committee has worked out a propaganda plan for the Sudan. It will be under the direction of Major Salah Salem, Minister for Propaganda, assisted by Abdel Aziz and four younger officers. The propaganda material will be prepared with the cooperation of Al Azhar University in Cairo. Printing of the propaganda leaflets has already begun. The approach will take proper account of the difference between the Mohammedan people of the Northern Sudan and the negroid people of the Southern Sudan. The latter are afraid of Mohammedan influences, inspired by Egypt, coming from the north, and might accept a British protectorate.
3. Egypt is sending 240 secret agents with plenty of cash into the Sudan. Their duty is to prepare the way for two thousand additional agents. Sudanese living in the border districts are being specially used for this purpose. Their duty will be to propagandize for the Umma group, who want union with Egypt.

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4. Though the Mahdi's ambition to be king is well known, its fulfillment under British auspices might be dubious, especially in view of the agreement that Naguib reached with the Sudanese parties in Jan 1953, after the propaganda trip of Major Saleh Salem. Solution of this problem is not likely within less than three years, as it represents a trial of strength between Great Britain and Egypt.

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